

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SANTIA 00238 132112Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 SCA-01 MMS-01 NIC-01

SAJ-01 /089 W

----- 014249

R 132021Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1733

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 0238

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, SHUM

SUBJECT: ALMEYDA AND FRIENDS DEPART

REF: SANTIAGO 0217

1. SUMMARY. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA, FORMER JUSTICE AND EDUCATION MINISTER JORGE TAPIA, AND THREE OTHER MUCH LESSER LIGHTS OF ALLENDE PERIOD DEPARTED SANTIAGO FOR EXILE IN ROMANIA JAN 11. IN SPEECH PREVIOUS NIGHT IN ADDITION TO ANNOUNCING ALMEYDA RELEASE, MININTERIOR GEN. BENAVIDES CLAIMED DETAINEE RELEASE PROGRAM IS GOING FORWARD, RESTATED GOC OFFER TO MEXICO OF 200 DETAINEES, AND SAID QUESTION OF RELEASE OF THOSE AWAITING TRIAL OR ALREADY SENTENCED IS STILL UNDER STUDY. END SUMMARY.

2. ALMEYDA, TAPIA, AND OTHER THREE ALLENDE-ERA OFFICIALS RELEASED WITH THEM (REFTEL) DEPARTED SANTIAGO MORNING JAN 11  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SANTIA 00238 132112Z

WITHOUT INCIDENT FOR EXILE IN ROMANIA. WIRE SERVICES REPORT

THEIR ARRIVAL IN BUCHAREST. ACCORDING TO ONE NEWS REPORT, DURING BRIEF STOPOVER IN FRANKFURT, ALMEYDA REFUSED TO COMMENT ON CHILEAN POLITICAL SCENE OR TO REPLY TO QUESTIONS ON WHETHER HE HAD BEEN TORTURED, HINTING HOWEVER THAT HE MIGHT DO SO AT LATER DATE.

3. IN ADDITION TO ALMEYDA, A SOCIALIST, FURTHER IDENTIFICATION OF OTHER MEMBERS OF GROUP AS FOLLOWS. TAPIA, MEMBER OF RADICAL PARTY, A NON-MARXIST COMPONENT OF ALLENDE'S POPULAR UNITY POLITICAL COALITION, SERVED AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION IN ADDITION TO JUSTICE MINISTER. HE WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN EARLY 1973 "NATIONAL CONSOLIDATED EDUCATION" (ENU) PLAN TO OVERHAUL CHILEAN EDUCATION, A SCHEME CRITICS OF ALLENDE, INCLUDING TOP MILITARY OFFICERS, BITTERLY OPPOSED AS ATTEMPT AT MARXIST BRAIN-WASHINGTON. ZULJEVIC, A COMMUNIST, WAS SUPT. OF CUSTOMS FOR FIRST HALF OF ALLENDE GOVT. MUNOZ WAS MINOR OFFICIAL OF CENTRAL BANK. TACCHI WAS CITY COUNCILMAN (REGIDOR) OF VAL-PARAISO, AND WAS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF ARMS. NO PARTY AFFILIATIONS FOR LATTER TWO KNOWN.

4. SANTIAGO PRESS GAVE MODERATE COVERAGE TO RELEASE AND DEPARTURE OF GROUP, ALTHOUGH STORY WAS OVERSHADOWED BY CHILEAN VICTORY IN REGIONAL DAVIS CUP TENNIS MATCHES. MEDIA TOOK CUE FROM MININTERIOR BENAVIDES (REFTEL), STRESSING GROUP'S RELEASE WAS DUE TO GOC'S RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND ITS HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS, AND WAS NOT BECAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE. MOST STORIES STRESSED GOOD HEALTH OF GROUP, WITH GOC'S "LA PATRIA" HEADLINING THAT ALMEYDA DEPARTED "FAT AND VERY HEALTHY." HIGH CIRCULATION "LA TERCERA" TOOK OCCASION TO PRAISE ROMANIA WHICH, LIKE PRC, RETAINED ITS EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO AFTER 1973 COUP. MAINTENANCE OF RELATIONS, TERCERA NOTED, FACILITATED ALMEYDA RELEASE AND SHOWS GOC CAN WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH GOVERNMENTS OF DIFFERING IDEOLOGIES.

5. ALTHOUGH ALMEYDA RELEASE WAS HIGHPOINT OF BENAVIDES SPEECH EVENING JAN 10, HE ALSO REITERATED, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS ONE NOTCH LESS POLEMICALLY, NOW-STANDARD GOC PROPAGANDA CHALLENGE TO USSR AND ITS COHORTS TO RELEASE THEIR POLITICAL PRISONERS. HE STRESSED THAT CHILEAN DETAINEE RELEASE PROGRAM IS MOVING FORWARD, ALBEIT SLOWLY, AND THAT PLACES FOR MORE THAN HALF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SANTIAGO 00238 132112Z

OF FIRST LIST OF 100 HAVE NOW BEEN FOUND ABROAD. BENAVIDES REITERATED THAT GOC IS STILL AWAITING MEXICAN REPLY TO PINOCHET OFFER TO EXILE 200 MORE TO MEXICO, AND HE CHALLENGED GOM TO PUT UP OR SHUT UP. QUESTION OF EVENTUAL RELEASE OF THOSE DETAINEES AWAITING TRIAL OR ALREADY SENTENCED CONTINUES UNDER STUDY, HE SAID, BUT HE AGAIN STRESSED INDEPENDENCE OF JUDICIARY WHICH HAS CONTROL OVER THESE PERSONS.

6. COMMENT. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, RELEASE OF ALMEYDA WAS  
SIGNIFICANT GOC CONCESSION TO WORLD OPINION, LOCAL RHETORICAL  
NOTWITHSTANDING. HOWEVER, REACTION AMONG PRO-JUNTA SUPPORTERS  
BEST SUMMED UP BY "EL MERCURIO" EDITORIAL COMMENT THAT GOC  
SHOULD NOT EXPECT ITS CRITICS TO BE APPEASED BY ALMEYDA  
RELEASE, SINCE THEY SURELY WILL FIND SOME OTHER "PHONY"  
ISSUE WITH WHICH TO BELABOR JUNTA.  
POPPER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL ASYLUM, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SANTIA00238  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750013-0251  
**From:** SANTIAGO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750157/aaaabxqs.tel  
**Line Count:** 123  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 SANTIAGO 0217  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALMEYDA AND FRIENDS DEPART  
**TAGS:** SHUM, CI, RO, (ALMEYDA, CLODOMIRO), (TAPIA, JORGE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006